

REMARKS

Claims 65-67 are pending in the Office Action and have been rejected. Claim 65 is an independent claim. Claims 66 and 67 are dependent claims. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In numbered paragraphs 1 and 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 65-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by DeLorme et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,373). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons presented below.

The filing date of the DeLorme reference is July 18, 1997. The priority date of the subject application is February 6, 1997, which precedes the filing date of DeLorme. An English language translation of the priority document (Japanese Application. No. 9-024106) is submitted herewith in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4). Because the priority date of the subject application precedes the filing date of the DeLorme reference, Applicant submits the DeLorme reference is not a valid prior art reference.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under § 102.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 08/902,153

Docket No. 826.1410

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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